



'A Holiday for Old Folk', 1954 110.86

Cambridge OLD PEOPLE Scrapbook 1897-1990 by Mike Petty

1897 06 24

One of the most interesting events of the Jubilee week was the dinner to 1,000 aged people of Cambridge which took place on Parker's Piece. From 10 a.m. an army of helpers 400 strong, all as busy as bees, were engaged in preparing the tents, two in number, for the expected guests. The old people began to arrive very early, with beaming faces and expectant eyes. "It's not the dinner so much", said an old lady of some 75 summers, "it's taking part in the Jubilee dinner and meeting with all the others". Gowns of antique stuff, redolent of sweet lavender, that had lain by for years protected against the ravages of moth, were brought out in honour of the occasion. One old gentleman had hunted up a pair of white jean trousers that he went courting in 50 years ago.

1908 02 22

Cambridge Guardians discussed the case of an old soldier who had served in the Crimea and the Indian Mutiny for whom they paid 2s 6d a week for a nurse. The old man had saved £20 out of his pension to pay for his funeral expenses, so that he should not be buried in a pauper's grave. But this had been seized by the relieving officer. They did not want the old man to have the money back so that his children should have the pleasure of spending it for their own comfort and then send him to the Union 08 02 22a

1908 07 31

The Old Age Pensions Bill promises relief to many old people. But those who anticipate that old age pensions will mean a great saving to the poor rate are making a big mistake. It is more than ever necessary that every possible encouragement should be given to the teaching of thrift at school, it is

quite as important as gardening, amateur carpentering and things of that kind. Friendly Societies should see there are qualified teachers. CWN 08 07 31

1908 09 25

A new economic era in the life of England has begun with the introduction of old age pensions. Every man or woman of 70 who has less than twelve shillings a week is entitled to walk into a post office and fill up a form to claim a supplementary income from public funds. In Cambridgeshire there are about 1,500 who are eligible and in Cambridge about 1,300. There are those who forecast an age of thriftlessness, improvidence and national bankruptcy. But we do not think there is any need to be alarmed. CWN 08 09 25 p5

1908 09 26

500 aged poor can apply for Old Age Pensions - "5/- (25p) a week for nothing"; have problems proving age [2.21]

1909 01 01

The Old Age Pensions Act comes into force and the post office is busy making the first payments to some half-million old people. In this part of the country many old folk are incredulous about the act, which they believe is too good to be true. But some pensioners in the East End of London have been borrowing money against their pension order. But if a moneylender has taken a pensioner's book as a security for debt, the book can be recovered. CWN 09 01 01

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1909 01 08

Cambridgeshire took the advent of Old Age Pensions with very little fuss. For the first time in history veterans of toil claimed from the country the wherewithal to end their days in comparative comfort, free from the haunting dread of having to enter the 'House'. The pension varies from one to five shillings a week through the issue of what is known as the poor man's cheque book which is presented at the post office 09 01 08

1910

1911 01 06

Legislative changes have removed the pauper disqualification in connection with the Old Age Pensions Act. At Cambridge workhouse 22 men and 16 women were eligible for the pension but only three have declared their intention of leaving the House. All three are men between 70 and 75 years of age who are going to live with relatives. At Chesterton Workhouse 48 inmates are entitled to the pension but again only three are leaving, one being over 80. Another old man has not yet made up his mind. Perhaps the coming of more genial weather will bring him to a decision to accept his pension and forsake the shelter of the House. 11 01 06f

1913 04 25

Mrs Emma Hosegood was Matron of workhouse, for 36 years. As Miss Porter she started as schoolmistress at Caxton workhouse before moving to Cambridge where Luke Hosegood was schoolmaster. They married and were offered the posts of Master and Matron at Mill Road. All her life was devoted to her work, striving to improve and maintain the high standard of efficiency she set up. 13 04 25 p10 CIP

1913 10 03

Luke Hosegood was at Cambridge workhouse for 42 years, most as manager. When appointed the Union ad not been attended to and he set to work most energetically to get it into perfect condition, making it home-like. There were many poor old people and it was the Guardians' wish that they should be treated with the greatest kindness and their somewhat grey lives made brighter. The Master was a disciplinarian and quelled the most turbulent inmate without undue severity. When his wife, the Matron, died, he resigned, even though not at a pensionable age. They hoped he would find something to supplement his pension. 13 10 03 p6 & 9 CIP

1913 11 21

Cottages were recently erected under the Housing of Working Classes Act in Stanley Road. One block of 12 tenements for old people consists of a living room with bed recess, scullery, larder and w.c.. Costs were higher than expected due to problems with the foundations meaning rents had to be higher. No ordinary person would have built such horrible houses. But they had been erected as an experiment to see what was needed and been successful, councillors heard. 13 11 21 p7 CIP

1914 07 17

The parishes of St Philip and St Barnabas have been enriched by the gift of six new almshouses which Mrs Waters has recently endowed and built on her land in Seymour Street, Vinery Road. They are intended for old age pensions of 70 upwards; three will be occupied by old ladies from each parish. They are of good quality red brick with a living room, bedroom and scullery fitted with a sink. The coal hole and lavatory adjoin the scullery. Mrs Waters selected the first tenants. 14 07 17 p5

1916 02 16

Soldiers in the Workhouse. A report by Cambridge Board of Guardians states that three soldiers recently discharged, from the Army had been admitted to the casual ward within the previous fortnight. It is a lamentable thing that the Workhouse should become the abode of so many old soldiers towards the close of their lives. We shall be ingrates indeed if we let the men who have engaged in this great war for world liberty end their days as paupers, if any effort of the community can save them from that fate

1917 01 03

Inquest into elderly woman of Shelly Terrace, died in deplorable state of neglect – 17 01 03b

1920

1926 10 27

An important new block is about to be opened as an extension of the Cambridge Poor Law Institution. The Mill Road workhouse received its first inmates in September 1838; just before Christmas married couples and the aged women arrived, and the sick and infirm were brought 'in fives' from the Poor-house of St Sepulchre and St Mary-the-Less. As tea was then 3s.3d. a lb 'small beer' was allowed in its place and sometimes given in excess so the quantity was limited to one quart daily per inmate. It has served with certain alterations and additions for three generations but now is inadequate for present requirements. The new block contains sick wards, maternity wards and nurseries. It will prove very useful and be a credit to the town 26 10 27

1927 03 10

An inquest was told how an 82 years old lady, who had fallen, was moved about from one institution to another until she had, against her relative's inclination, to find a last refuge in the Cambridge Workhouse Infirmary. Addenbrooke's Hospital had said she was noisy and disturbing the rest of the ward and could not be detained. She was sent to the Infirmary from which she was removed to the Devonshire Nursing Home by her relatives. But they said that whenever she moved she cried out very loudly on account of the pain and was too noisy to keep. So she was returned to the Infirmary where they diagnosed a broken rib. 27 03 10

1927 09 01

The foundation stone of two new cottages were laid at the Cambridge Victoria Friendly Society's Institution in Victoria Road, Cambridge when. One is to house the nurse-matron and the other will be for an extra inmate. They have been made possibly by the generosity of the late Miss Emily Flack. They will be one-storey buildings containing a living room, a bedroom and a scullery. The nurse's cottage will have a bathroom in addition. It was only right that old people who had worked all their life and exercised thrift by belonging to a Friendly Society should in their old age find a haven of rest, said the President, Dr E.H. Parker.

1929 01 18

Cambridge Councillors considered erecting 50 houses of a type within the pecuniary means of the people who would have to be moved from insanitary houses. In some places eight people were living in a single room under exceptional circumstances of poverty. But a man might say 'I am paying 3s. 6d. a week for two rooms and I cannot afford any more'. So what type of house was going to be built? In some of the houses there were elderly people and moving them perhaps two miles would be quite out of the question.

1930

1933 11 28

Cambridge Victoria Friendly Society's Institution opened its new pavilion with a verandah from which residents could watch Cambridge Town Football Club's matches. It had started in hired cottages in James Street but in 1841 the foundation stone for the present building was laid. Cottages were added in 1888 and 1899 thanks to the Jubilee fund with the four others known as Miller's Buildings opened in 1906. It provides accommodation for 37 residents whose average age is 70 years. 33 11 28

1938 11 28

Something should be done about the housing of old people: the number of old people is growing out of all proportion to the number of children and people of working age, Cambridge Women's Luncheon Club was told. In the old days people with nobody to look after them had to go to an institution. Now most live with relations but are not wanted, cause overcrowding, are treated as unpaid nurses and servants and appreciated very little. Some live in attic rooms in other people's houses with no water or cooking arrangements. It would be better to convert middle-class houses for them where they could form some sort of community. 38 11 28b

1939 04 21

The Victoria Friendly Institution was inaugurated at a meeting at the Wrestlers Inn, Petty Cury in 1837 and the foundation stone of the old building laid in 1841. A programme and a number of coins were also placed in a bottle. But there is no trace of them. Now six houses have been erected to mark their centenary, providing happiness for those fortunate enough to be elected tenants. It was a great satisfaction to know there were such places in which people could spend the eventide of life 39 04 21

1940

1946 10

Edwinstowe old peoples home opened Oct [446.10.3]

1947 06 16

"There is a general feeling throughout every grade of society that we want to have a brighter old age - and this is one of the first steps taken towards it". This comment was made by Alderman W.L. Briggs when he opened the first Old People's Welfare Club in the Tracy Memorial Hall, Romsey Town, Cambridge. This club is the first of its kind in the town, and more will be opened. "This new movement throughout the county was to take an interest in people who had reached the sensible years of life". Remarking that as far as pensions were concerned things were getting better every day - and

it should be. "After all, we are the people who have borne the heat and burden of the day and have made England what she is"

1947 07 14

Homes specially intended for old people should be in towns rather than in the country said Lord Amulree in addressing the Woman Public Health Officers' Association Summer school in Cambridge. It was a great advantage to have the home in a town, he said. For a large majority of people a home in the country did not work at all. "Most of our population are townspeople and also, when they are growing old, their interests become rather contracted. Old people do enjoy calling on their friends' houses. They like to go to the local pub or to the pictures, and if they cannot do that they like to sit in the window and watch other people going to the pub and to the cinema"

1948 04 01

"An aspiration set too high for practical achievement in these days of Government interference" was how the Chairman of the Cambridge Old People's Homes Ltd described the position of the Society at the present time. The possibility of having to wind up the Society was openly discussed. The committee had abandoned a scheme for the erection of a home in Queen Edith's Way owing to building costs having soared. They had explored the possibility of converting existing property and careful thought had been given to Hinxton Hall and detailed sketch plans of the interior prepared. It was pointed out that a place nine miles away from Cambridge which old people's friends would have some difficulty in reaching was not "ideal"

Difficulties old peoples homes, p8

1948 08 25

The need for utilising Chesterton hospital for the elderly and infirm people of Cambridgeshire and of housing casuals in some other part of the county was discussed at a meeting of the Board of Governors of the United Cambridge Hospitals. Dr R. Ellis said "There is a tremendous need, with the closing of infirmaries, to know what to do with the people who were housed in such places. A great hardship is being imposed on people who are old - they are literally living in houses in some villages in semi-starvation and dirt. There is no hope for them living in the way they are". Mr Dennard thought that as far as casuals are concerned they should get a hut at Bourn and house them there 48 08 25

1948 10 28

The "really crying need" for the provision of residential homes for old people, both for the infirm and the bedridden, and for elderly people with no one to look after them was emphasised by the Bishop of Ely. A special type of "short stay" home would alleviate the otherwise never-ceasing strain on relatives looking after old people. Nursing annexes attached to hospitals were cited as a possible solution of the filling up of hospital beds by elderly permanent patients

1950

1950 06 14

Old people in this country used to be about the most neglected section of the community, but since the war various bodies have sprung up to give them help when needed and make the even-tide of their lives happier and more conformable. Cambridge is doing its bit through the Old Peoples' Welfare Council. As an experiment they decided to organise a small party of members for a week's holiday in Westcliff-on-Sea. Special terms were offered by a number of hotels and boarding houses at a cost of £3.7.6 including transport by a private coach.

1950 10 20

Coun. Mrs Henn said the majority of old couples were willing to move into smaller accommodation to make room for larger families. But there are a very few who are so selfish and anti-social that they have not got the pity, the sympathy or the imagination to cast their eye for a moment at the housing-list queue. It was a natural desire for old people to have spare rooms for visiting children but

Cambridge has 5,000 families who have no house at all. It is perfectly normal for five adults and two children to live in one bedroom with no sanitation, and cooking done in that bedroom.

1951 07 19

“The problem of old age will get the county down unless we learn ways of doing it economically as well as efficiently” said the speaker at Cambridgeshire Old People’s Welfare Council. Her interest had started over half a century ago when she was taken to the old workhouse in Mill Road and had been absolutely appalled at the condition of the old ladies. Some of them looked after babies for twelve hours a day with no reward except extra cups of tea. “They paid for the sin of being old in those days”, she said.

1952 04 17

Cambridge Trades Council strongly objected to the closing of Romsey Municipal Restaurant. It will deny a good mid-day meal to many old people & working class men could not afford to go into places in Cambridge and pay high prices for meals. Transport workers could not get a meal if the facility were taken away. The profit of the combined restaurants is more than enough to cover losses and as municipal restaurants are a public service and not run for profit they urged the continuation of the service in Romsey

1952 07 14

When the British Red Cross Society decided to make “Edwinstowe” at Chaucer Road, Cambridge a home for old people, there were questions in the minds of the organisers. Although residents would be well looked after and have all the material comforts, would the old people want to come? It is now an established and happy home and the public flock each year to the annual fete, not only to help the funds of the home but to renew acquaintance with the residents who seem to be having an “at home” in their own beautiful gardens. Pupils of the Betty Ripley-Carter School of Dancing made a charming contribution to the enjoyment with a dancing display

1952 12 01 c

Cambridge Council will start negotiations for the purchase of sites in Northampton Street to build cottages for old people. The Cambridge Preservation Society has offered £100 towards the cost of each dwelling on condition that the cottages in Kettle” Yard are kept in being and modernised. Because of the urgent need in Chesterton for more cottages for old people’s use the Housing Committee are to consider buying land on the Scotland Farm Site.

1953 01 21

The Deputy Mayor of Cambridge, (Ald. H.O. Langdon) told a public meeting to launch an appeal for funds for a residential home for old people that it was a challenge to every one of them. “Can we stand aside and see old people who have spent a useful life in the service of our country suffer the pangs of loneliness and hardship, and let them die in despair, uncared for and unwanted”, he asked. It is proposed to provide bed sitting rooms, both single and double, centrally heated and with modern amenities together with a dining room, reading and writing rooms where people can spend their declining years in the company of others and be tended and cared for.

1953 08 01

A Pageant for Coronation year is to be performed in the grounds of St John’s College in aid of the Cambridge Residential Home for Old People. In this enterprise Town and University combine. About 150 people take part from a distinguished historian to a little girl of six. It includes a genuine ancient broadsword lent by Prof G.M. Trevelyan, Master of Trinity and greatest of living historians. Amongst those taking part are Michael Cogman, a nine-year-old pupil from Milton Road School, Charles Batts, Timothy Roach and David Bartlett.

1953 12 31

“There are cities with rotten cores and bad outsides and Cambridge is in danger of that” said the Vice Chancellor of the University and Chairman of the Preservation Society adding: “I would not be averse

to a certain number of four-storey flats rather than development spreading further and further out". Cambridge was probably the only town in England which was now more beautiful than 30 years ago. But in Northampton Street was a 'horrid desert' only adorned by a small brick-built convenience; now the land has been acquired for 19 old people's cottages in a delightful architectural scheme.

1954 01 28

Some people have the idea that it will cost £4 a week to obtain admission to the Cambridge Residential Home for Old People when it is built. "But", said the Mayor, "I would like to make it clear that this does not mean everybody will have to pay that sum and whether or not they have the full means they will not be excluded from the Home". Each resident will have a bed-sitting room with running water and will share the dining and sitting rooms. There will be a small sick bay and a guest room where elderly people can stay for limited periods. All meals will be provided and there will be central heating throughout

1954 05 03

The general trend at the moment is to keep old people in their homes as long as possible and to provide services to keep them happy and comfortable. Housing Societies will no longer give money to the provision of residential homes for old people. They have three different kinds of schemes. The able bodied are being provided with flats, bungalows and converted flatlets with a residential warden, the slightly less able need residential clubs or hostels where meals and staffing is provided and the really old inform people require more in the way of care and attention. The important thing is that the needs of their minds and spirits, as well as their bodies, were thought of, the Cambridge Central Aid Society was told

1955 07 05

The Mayor cut the first sod for the building of the Cambridge Residential Home for Old People to be known as 'Langdon House'. It will take 37 residents with special provision for elderly married couples. Each will have a bed-sitting room with running water and they will share dining and sitting rooms. It will cost them £4.10s a week, but inability to meet this charge will not debar worthy residents from being admitted as it will be open to all without distinction. 55 07 05a

1956 03 06

The Lord Mayor of London visited Cambridge to open a new block of flats for old people at Honey Hill, Northampton Street. It was the first such visit and brought a glimpse of the pageantry in which the true Londoner takes great pride. In 1936 the frontage had been bought by the council with a quarter of the cost paid by Cambridge Preservation Society and Magdalene College. But the war intervened and the site was a blot for many years. Now the Mayor presented the keys to the first tenants, Mr & Mrs H.C. Rogers. 56 03 06a-d

1956 03 09

An elderly spinster living alone in one room of a six-roomed house in Beche Road, Cambridge is an 'unpardonable extravagance in these days of shortage' said a judge who ordered her to leave. The rooms were in a filthy state, with four cats in one room. The kitchen was indescribable, one of the bedrooms bunged up with rubbish and builders had refused to go inside to assess the repairs needed. The owner wanted to regain possession so his newly-married son could live there. 56 03 09b & c

1956 08 16

The pink-overalled corps of women known as the 'Home Helps Service' are available to homes where there are expectant mothers, elderly people, those who are ill and small children in need of care. The 250 ladies cook, clean, shop, wash and iron, receiving 2s 10d an hour. One helper isn't exactly a housewifery expert but was always in some small trouble of her own. 'We like having her', the old people said, 'she brings us a bit of excitement!' 56 08 16

1956 10 05

Mr & Mrs Ditchburn have seen many changes at Mill Road Maternity Hospital in the 22 years they have been Senior Administrative Officer and Matron. When they came in 1934 it was the County Infirmary and was mostly for old people. During the next five years a new wing was built, together with a new ward and theatre. Gradually the chronic patients became fewer and now there are only 23. During the war it was an emergency Medical Services Hospital with only one bed left for maternity patients. In 1934 there were only 56 births at the Hospital but 1,831 were recorded in 1954. 56 10 05a & b

1957 04 16

Cambridge city council may purchase the 350 temporary bungalows from the Ministry of Housing for £150 each. They are suitable for elderly couples and can be kept sound for another ten years. They could also purchase big houses to let as flats to business people, starting with no.20 Beche Road which has already been converted into five flats. 57 04 16

1957 08 01

Two groups of Cambridge people, one small and ageing, the other large and young will always carry vivid and happy memories of Princess Margaret's visit. One are the happy band who are passing away their 'twilight years' in the comfort and beauty of Langdon House, which she officially opened. Named after Alderman Langdon, 1952 Old People Welfare Council urged him as Mayor for home old people, pledged his personal help; Cambridge Housing Society would manage it if £10,000 by public subscription, foundation stone laid 1955, finished Dec 1956, for 36 able-bodied elderly; new wing 1963 for old who unable to move far & need constant attention 57 08 01c & d & e & f [3.8,15.1]

1957 09 18

I had always thought of old peoples' homes being sad places where equally sad old people spend the end of their life. But Primrose Croft stands in a lovely garden filled with flowers backing onto school playing fields. Each of the 35 residents has an airy room with attractive curtains and a lock-up cupboard. The women were busy doing knitting and crocheting, the wireless in the lounge is also enjoyed and the matron hopes one day to afford a television set. 57 09 18

1958 02 18

Civic leaders have backed the News' appeal for emergency funds for Edwinstowe Old People's Home in Chaucer Road. It needs money to replace furnishings, including mattresses and the hot water system. This pioneer Home has catered for 90 elderly people since it opened in 1946 but rising costs have made it impossible for money to be found other than by an appeal to the warm-hearted generosity of local people. 58 02 18a

1959 03 16

Frederick Archibald Mace arrived as Master of Chesterton Hospital in 1946 and implemented the changes which have turned it into the bright, happy National Health Service establishment it is today. But to several old people, some of whom have been in the hospital from their childhood and until ten years ago knew it only as an institution, he was still 'the Master', but a Master who contradicted all the old Dickensian ideas of institutional life. 59 03 16

1959 05 08

Chesterton Hospital held an open day so people could see for themselves what life is really like in a modern old people's home. The exterior resembles structures of the Dickensian era but give no hint of the warmth, gaiety and colour prevailing inside. Every department bore testimony to how even formidable mansions can be transformed into gay fairy-like palaces. None of the old folks had the slightest complaint and had nothing but praise for the staff. 59 05 08b

1959 08 26

Sir – in the area between Warkworth Street and Burleigh Street there are many little houses which have been bought by elderly people for their retirement and by young couples starting a new home. Now having been put in good order they are to be demolished by the Council in a 'development

scheme'. It is cruel, unnecessary, and wasteful to pull down houses which are in liveable condition because in the same neighbourhood there are a number that are neglected and damp. I hope ratepayers will protest – Hilda Finney, Prospect Row. 59 08 26

1959 09 12

Henrietta Street and St Eligius almshouses – 59 09 12c & d, 59 09 26, 59 09 28

1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has detailed newspaper cuttings files from this date

1960

1960 01 08

The present generation of old people grew up before the welfare state came into being and had to go without many of the things which today makes life easier for everyone. A recent survey showed that 96 per cent of old people lived independent lives. But those who were in care were very much frailer than those being looked after 10 years before and this made for greater demands on the staff. It is very rare to find married couples entering old people's homes. The only couple at present in the care of the County Council married after entering the home. 60 01 08a

1960 10 20

Stanton House flatlets in Christ Church Street provide luxurious accommodation for 29 old people. Each has a bed sitting room, with the bed space behind a curtain partition, a small electric cooker and fitted wall electric fire. Lavatory and bathroom accommodation is in conformity with Ministry requirements with an emergency bell. There is a large lounge with an open fireplace where old folk can spend their evenings in each other's company and a large open patio with fish pond and fountain. Central heating and lighting is included in the rent of thirty shillings a week. 60 10 20

1960 11 22

Stanton House flatlets old people, luxurious accommodation opened [3.9, 15.10]

1961 02 17

The Old People's Welfare Council believes the best thing for the elderly is for them to live independently as long as possible. But many cannot and there are an increasing number of people wanting care in their old age. The main problem is finding suitable premises to make into old people's homes. In 1948 the County Council had to do with Linton Hospital and a few beds at Chesterton Hospital. Since then they have been modernised and improved. After the war buildings were very difficult to get because of competition from firms wanting office accommodation and the rising cost of land. The first new home was The Grove, Fordham in 1951, followed by Willingham House and in 1956 Primrose Croft was adapted to take 35 elderly residents. The future plans are to erect purpose-designed buildings 61 02 17b

1961 08 12

Chesterton Hospital has 166 beds for the elderly sick and 74 custodial beds for able-bodied elderly people with no homes of their own. After decades of neglect geriatric medicine has come into its own. The number of elderly people is the highest it has ever been while a declining birth-rate has diminished the number of children available to care for their parents. Now 25 per cent of Britain's elderly are left without children to look after them in their old age. But of these 95 per cent are living independent lives and a quarter make some contribution to society until the age of 75 61 08 12

1962 12 04

Whitelocks Yard, Trumpington is a quiet oasis from traffic thundering by on the main road. Now the twelve 100-year-old houses are being put up for sale by the trustees of the charity of George Whitelock who say they need considerable improvements and a lot of money spending on them. But the elderly tenants are concerned for the future, fearing they may be thrown out on the streets. The homes, with a half-acre site, are being sold for £4,750 62 12 04a

1962 12 08

Collections at the Round Table's Christmas tree in St Andrew the Great churchyard began in 1953. Last year they raised money to provide 415 parcels for old people, each containing £1-worth of Christmas cheer. The names of old people who benefit from this magnificent effort are revised each year and every person is visited before Christmas. One year a 30-foot high tree was delivered and putting it up meant dislocating the traffic outside Christ's College for some time. 62 12 08

1962 12 21

One third of the institutions which house our old people are just former workhouses. Terrified of losing their individuality in an institution plenty of old folk prefer merely to exist in poverty-stricken solitude. The real problem is of lonely old age – and no place can be lonelier for an old person than a 60-bed workhouse dormitory full of strangers. But the Abbeyfield Society integrates people in their own neighbourhood in houses with separate bed-sitting rooms with personal belongings and an electric hot-plate for minor cooking. Now one may be set up in Cambridge. 62 12 21

1964 11 18

Cherry Trees, a club for the elderly, has opened in new buildings in St Matthew's Street which have been donated by Miss Evelyn Boake. It will be run by the W.V.S. on similar lines to their successful Hill Top Club on Castle Hill. The main room with a lounge opens out to a sun terrace. The décor is rich and colourful with easy chairs in orange blue, green and red. Coffees and lunches will be served each weekday to men and women of pensionable age who are not in full employment. At present the main problem is obtaining sufficient volunteers to help serve. 64 11 18

1965 05 06

Oban Court flatlets for elderly people in Union Lane; have kitchenettes, bed-sitting room and dressing room with washbasin and lavatory. The double ones have bathroom. To be officially opened – 65 05 06

1966 03 29

Cherry Trees club for elderly in St Matthew's Street – feature – 66 03 29a

1967 02 28

Edward Storey almshouses originally built in 1729 for clergymen's widows; houses built in 1844 converted to flats – feature - 67 02 28a

1967 11 04

Seymour House day centre for elderly opened [15.8]

1968 09 31

Local authority homes for old or handicapped people – feature – 68 09 13

1969 04 25

Abbeyfield Cambridge Society houses for elderly – feature – 69 04 25

1970

1970 01 13

Vicarage Terrace now site of Cherry Trees Old People's Centre – photos before and after – 70 01 13a

1970 09 15

Several charities to merge in bid to build new almshouses on Old Manor House site at Church Street, Chesterton to replace old Wray's Court Houses; Henry Wray trustees apply city council – 70 09 15

1970 12 21

Victoria Homes demolish part building make way modern flatlets for old people [10]

1971 05 10

National Federation Old Age Pensioners association founded Cambridge branch [15.4]

1973 97 24

Cambridge pensioner claims that old people are being forced to stay away from their church on Sunday mornings because they are baffled by the Series Two Holy Communion service. But now, claims Mr Richard Pettit, who has been going to St Augustine's church, Cambridge, they are outraged by a plan to do away with Series Two and bring in Series Three - a new version of the service in modern English. "They are being forced to sit at home because they can't follow the services, and it's a crying shame" he said 73 07 24

1974 04 09

A gang of hooligans are terrorising old folk living on the Arbury estate in Cambridge, says County Councillor Mrs Janet Jones. She said the gang have let off fire extinguishers in the Edgecombe flats, cut down washing lines in the gardens of old peoples' bungalows, gathered at Arbury Court refusing to allow old people to pass and rampaged along the alleyways linking Crowland Way with Campkin Road, smashing dozens of windows in garden sheds. "There appears to be a gang going round and there is not much else one can do except to ask them to behave themselves", she said

1974 06 06

Storeys House 49 flats elderly women Mount Pleasant opened, Edward Storey Foundation one of richest in country with income 12,000 [17.4]

1975 02 11

Voluntary workers in Cambridge are battling to keep an old peoples' day club and meals on wheels service going while they wait for new premises. The WRVS Hill Top Club for the elderly is run in a dilapidated "pre-fab" on Castle Hill. The workers took the building over in 1958 from American servicemen who had used it as a social club. It has been feared the building would not last until new premises at Primrose Croft were built.

1975 09 26

The fire risk wards at Chesterton Hospital have been drawn directly to the attention of the Health Minister, Dr David Owen, by the city MP, Mr David Lane. He expressed concern over the Hospital's Harston and Hardwick wards where 36 elderly patients are housed in cramped conditions. Both wards are 130 years old and were condemned more than two years ago as fire risks, but because of lack of cash nothing has been done to replace them

1975 12 11

A state of emergency has been declared for hundreds of old people living in Cambridge. The County social services leader, Coun. Mrs Janet Jones, claims that they are in serious danger of grave illness, injury or even death because they cannot afford to use the electric heating provided in many city council old people's flats. Because of this they are either shivering in the cold or buying oil heaters which they could easily overturn

1975 11 04

Cambridge City Council has set itself a house-building target of 400 a year. Completions for 1976 are expected to number 250 but the new target should be met for the next five or six years. Councillor Don Mackay said he was worried that building such numbers might lead to "little houses being dotted all over" - as they were at Haverhill. Coun Liz Gard was concerned about the shortage of sheltered accommodation for elderly people in some parts of the city.

1976 01 28

New Hill Top Club opens Primrose Croft, anon £20,000 donation two years ago [15.6]

1976 07 23

Geriatric hospitals are old workhouses, each one days march from the other [15.7]

1978 11 14

Parsons Court meeting place for elderly opens [15.9]

1976 09 29

A new flats complex for elderly people in Sturton Street, Cambridge, was opened by Mrs Rae Linnett, widow of the former Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University after whom it is named. He was chairman of the appeal which raised money for the scheme which was promoted by the Anchor Housing Association. Linnett House, which includes communal rooms, a laundry room and a warden's flat, is the first new development for the use of Cambridge residents named after a senior member of the University 76 09 29

1979 10 13

Cambridge Corn Exchange may be turned into a civic restaurant. The old one in Petty Cury was demolish amid a public outcry nearly eight years ago to make way for the Lion Yard redevelopment. It was started during the Second World War under the Government's British Restaurant plans for providing cheap meals and was continued by the council. It became something of a social centre and meeting place for many old people with nowhere to go during the day

1979 10 19

In the past fifteen years the number of people aged 65 or over has risen by a million and a half. By 1986 there will be 24 per cent more over-75's than now. National policy has been to encourage old people to lead as independent an old age as they can with as much help as they need on hand. Back-up services must be provided. But the County Councils say that neither centre or local government should promise more than can be delivered and, faced with the need to prune their budgets, they have imposed restrictions on home help services and charges for meals-on-wheels and lunches at day centres.

1980

1981 12 31

The number of elderly people is rising so fast it is putting a strain on the health and social services. Many people who have recently settled in the area have brought their elderly relatives with them because of the rural and relatively peaceful setting. There should be a change in emphasis from residential to community care but the family must bear more of the responsibility. 80 10 01a Simons House, the Histon Road sheltered housing for the elderly, and the nearby Rackham Close bungalows have won a major Housing Design Award. The scheme was judged to provide 'most agreeable homes for elderly people' and many of the residents agree. Mrs Bertha Kent described it 'as a lovely little place', Daisy Woodcock says it's very friendly and John Manning thinks 'it's really ideal'. 81 12 31a

1982 01 15

Community nurses along with home helps and the meals-on-wheels service form the basic support for many old people. They treat burnt legs – quite common in cold weather as the elderly tend to sit very close to fires and fall asleep. Many ladies cling stubbornly to the homes in which they have lived for half a century or more, often without central heating, indoor lavatories and in some cases electricity or hot water. Two or three elderly people in Romsey have only gaslight while others insist on using candles. 82 01 15

1982 06 10

Newmarket millionaire David Robinson has given church authorities just seven weeks to come up with plans to convert Cambridge's St Andrew's Church into an old people's centre, or risk losing a

£1/2 million windfall. The future of the church, threatened with redundancy for the past 10 years because of falling congregations, has long been the subject of debate. Previous plans have included conversion into an electronics laboratory, language school or a mosque. 82 06 10

1982 07 06

Plans for the conversion of St Andrew the Great church into an old people's day centre have angered parishioners. They include ripping out the old organ, replacing the present altar and covering up the memorial plaques which line the walls and floor of the church, although the memorial to Captain Cook would remain. 'God is being put in the back room with his back to a couple of loos' one worshipper complains. 82 07 06

1982 10 05

Newly-modernised almshouses in King Street were re-opened by Baroness David. They were built in 1880 to replace the original houses dating back to 1647 which had decayed beyond repair. The new houses for single retired women have modern kitchens, bathrooms and central heating. Already they have six tenants. 82 10 05a

1982 12 31

Simons House, the Histon Road sheltered housing for the elderly, and the nearby Rackham Close bungalows have won a major Housing Design Award. The scheme was judged to provide 'most agreeable homes for elderly people' and many of the residents agree. Mrs Bertha Kent described it 'as a lovely little place', Daisy Woodcock says it's very friendly and John Manning thinks 'it's really ideal'. 81 12 31a

1983 04 19

Regional health chiefs delivered a massive snub to both Cambridge City and the University by placing the Mill Road maternity unit and the old Addenbrooke's Hospital sites on the open market. They will go to the highest bidder which rules out the chance of the city buying Mill Road for an old peoples' sheltered housing scheme. They have also disregarded a gentleman's agreement with the University to give them first refusal on the Addenbrooke's site which is worth between £1 and £2 million. 83 04 19 p12

1983 07 19

Many old age pensioners in Cambridge are finding it difficult to struggle to the main Post Office and harder still to stand, often in a long queue, to collect their pensions. The News deserves full credit for highlighting the plight of many frail, elderly residents. The lack of hospital beds for long stay patients means that more than 80 former residents are now separated. There is also a chronic shortage of accommodation in old peoples' homes and a shortage of warden-supervised sheltered housing – Chairman, City Housing Committee. 83 07 19 p6

1984 02 03

A £1 million scheme is being planned for 100 Cambridge council houses in the Akeman Street and Darwin Drive areas because a 'modernisation' project carried out 20 years ago has gone wrong. Prefabricated units, constructed mainly of wood and plastic were installed as a quick way of bringing the houses up to standard, but they have deteriorated badly. Now ten houses in Darwin Drive maybe pulled down to make space for flats suitable for old people or those in need of sheltered accommodation. 84 02 03 p15

1985 06 18

Cambridge Medical Answer Service to install computer link for elderly - 85 06 18 & a

1985 06 18

Abbeyfield Society homes for frail elderly – 85 06 18b

1985 09 04

Cambridge Labour councillors are to work out the cost of giving free bus travel throughout the city to all elderly and handicapped people. They will also investigate ways of increasing the off-peak use of buses. The present concessionary bus fare scheme is organised by the County Council but Alliance and Conservative councillors have combined to throw out proposals for free travel by Christmas 85 09 04a

1985 11 15

Almost 100 years of school history is about to bite the dust as the last remaining building of the former St Phillip's School in Thoday Street is demolished. It will be replaced with 30 self-contained flats for elderly people. The children moved to new premises in Vinery Road last year. 85 11 15

1985 11 25

Stanton House residents celebrated its silver jubilee with a ploughman's lunch and old-time music hall. It has 28 bedsits with shared bathrooms, giving elderly people their independence while under the watchful eye of a warden who lives on the premises. It was the first sheltered housing scheme to open in Cambridge and has proved very popular. But the fact that residents are made so comfortable means they live longer, and more and more homes of this kind are needed. Now Mill Road maternity hospital and St Philip's School in Thoday Street are to be converted. 85 11 25

1988 06 13

The first residents have moved into Ditchburn Place, the former Mill Road Maternity Hospital which is being turned into an assortment of 100 flats and houses for young single people and elderly couples. A small number of units have been built for people who have moved out of psychiatric institutions. When complete next year it will incorporate a laundry, restaurant, coffee bar and day centre for the frail and elderly. It is a very attractive scheme, offering a higher standard than the private sector could have afforded and is unlikely to be repeated in current financial circumstances. 88 06 13a

1988 09 21

Frail elderly people are waiting hours for ambulances: some have been waiting at 8pm for transport home from afternoon appointments. The service was crippled by cash shortages and hopelessly inadequate for the demands placed on it, a senior Cambridge doctor claimed. It had got to improve, either managerially or by pumping more resources into it. A Director admitted the service has been cut back after running over budget and was not as good as it should be. 88 09 21

1989 10 25

Five old people's homes may be sold to private companies to raise cash to peg back the county council's poll tax demands. People living in the homes would either be sent to other council homes, put into hospital or allowed to remain provided the Government pays for part of their upkeep. Officials claim the homes are not worth investment because of their high refurbishment and replacement costs. But with an expected glut of such homes coming on to the market prices are likely to be depressed. Other money-saving measures include scrapping cheap bus passes for pensioners and making the elderly pay for home helps. 89 10 25

1989 11 02

A high proportion of the 5,500 patients on the books of a small practice in Hills Road are elderly but they may be squeezed out by government plans to pay doctors by the number of patients they attract. Young, healthy bodies will be more profitable than older, unhealthy ones which are much more time-consuming, one GP says. Surgeries with older patients would also lose one-off payments covering immunisation, contraception or cervical smears. "It has got very political and it's a shame", she says 89 11 02a

1989 12 20

Ditchburn Place, the former Mill Road Workhouse celebrates transformation into home for the elderly and meeting place for the community – 89 12 20a

1990 01 05

Old People's Homes sell-off plans axed – 90 01 05

1990 05 25

Buchan House residential home and day centre to be kept closed until county find company to run it under new privatisation policies – 90 05 25b

1990 07 05

Duke of Edinburgh opens Ditchburn Place – 90 07 05c, 06, 09b